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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SANAA 000805

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA, NEA/ARP, NEA/EX, S/CT, CA, DS/DSS,
DS/IP/NEA, DS/DSS/ITA, DS/ICI/PII, CENTCOM FOR POLAD

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TAGS: [ASEC](#) [AMGT](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [YM](#) [EAC](#) [COUNTER](#) [TERRORISM](#)

SUBJECT: TFIZ01: SANAA EAC MEETING APRIL 16

Classified By: Ambassador Edmund J. Hull, for Reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

1. (S/NF) Summary: The Ambassador convened an Emergency Action Committee (EAC) meeting on April 16 to assess Embassy security posture and threat information. The EAC decided to return to normal operations on April 19, and to formally request the cancellation of authorized departure -- to include the return of dependents to post. End summary.

2. (S/NF) Key offices and personnel represented at the 4/16 EAC meeting included: ADMIN, AMB, CONS, DCM, FPD, OMC, ORCA, PD, POL/ECON, RMO and SOC YEMEN.

3. (S/NF) ORCA reported no new threat information.

4. (S/NF) RSO reported that there is no information on planned demonstrations this weekend. RSO will monitor the situation and alert the Embassy community as warranted.

Imminent Suspension of MoveSafe Light

5. (C) Noting the end of major combat operations in Iraq, A/DCM raised two issues for EAC's consideration: ending MoveSafe Lite and returning to normal operations; and formally requesting an end to authorized departure. RSO reported a request from the Ministry of Interior (MOI) for USG personnel to maintain the current level of security practices for 4-5 more days. MOI recognizes that the situation in Yemen is improving considering the events in the region, but feels that a few more days of heightened security will allow for a greater easing of Yemeni popular opinion.

6. (S/NF) Regarding possible threats to the community, EAC discussed an MOI report of a road incident in which shots were fired at a Jordanian diplomat. While the Jordanians believe their diplomat was specifically targeted, eye witness statements describe a vehicular confrontation ending in gunfire -- one shot fired into the air and one into the Jordanian's car. The shot into the car impacted away from the Jordanian diplomat. His vehicle did not have diplomatic plates. The MOI is assessing this episode as a road-rage incident.

7. (C) Unless credible new threat information becomes available, EAC agreed to go off of MoveSafe Lite on Saturday, April 19.

Cancellation of Authorized Departure

8. (C) Referring to an April 15 meeting in Washington to review the status of posts in the Gulf, A/DCM noted that the Department welcomes recommendations from posts in the region on whether to continue with authorized/ordered departure.

9. (C) EAC decided to formally request the lifting of authorized departure (AD) with attendees noting the following:

-- Informal polling of embassy personnel revealed general support for lifting AD because no one at post has used it; however, several post personnel have mentioned a perceived disconnect between returning to regular staffing while maintaining increased security.

-- Addressing the "disconnect", attendees noted that increased security and use of armored vehicles has brought post to its target security posture. This security will remain in place, even while ending AD, to deter future threats.

-- AD complicates the day-to-day life of a mission, in particular with respect to travel of personnel to and from post, and, if no longer required by local and regional circumstances, should be discontinued as soon as possible.

Return of Dependents

10. (C) Turning to the issue of dependents at post, EAC

members noted that a year ago, given circumstances in Yemen, the Department decided to allow spouses but no minor dependents to return to post. With regional circumstances changing after the end of combat operations in Iraq - and with improving security conditions in Yemen - EAC members agreed to request that in conjunction with the lifting of authorized departure, the Department also approve the return of minor dependents to Sanaa -- as it presumably may be doing for other posts in the region.

11. (C) Foreigners in Yemen have been targeted no more than at other posts in the region, and heightened security measures and ROYG's continued cooperation have been effective. The Department's concurrence on the return of dependents to post in the near future would also give families the chance to make preparations without interfering with their children's education.

Escape of Ten Suspected Terrorists

12. (S/NF) EAC also discussed the security implications of the escape of 10 suspected al-Qaida terrorists from a ROYG facility in Aden with FPD rep raising the possibility that these 10 could pose an increased threat. Noting that the USG was principally interested in 2 of the 10 for further investigation and prosecution, ORCA indicated that the other 8 are not key terrorist activists, while they still merit observation. ROYG is committed to the swift apprehension of the 10 and is working closely with the USG.

HULL